

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA



Thursday, July 27, 2006

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Purchasing Office RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 66

Subject: Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month service contract with COLORADO RIVER WATCH FOUNDATION, INC., Austin, TX, to provide water quality monitoring and training for at risk youth for the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department and the Austin Water Utility, in an amount not to exceed \$120,000, with two 12-month extension options in amounts not to exceed \$180,000 for the first extension option, and \$240,000 for the second extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$540,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$10,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility. Funding in the amount of \$10,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. Funding for the remaining 10 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

No Attachments Available

For More Information: Stephen T. Aden, Supervising Senior Buyer, 974-2021.

Purchasing Language: Sole proposal received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract is to provide water quality monitoring and training for at risk youth for the Austin Water Utility and the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

The benefits to the City relate directly to the basic goals of the Program, which are:

- to improve the water quality of the Colorado River Watershed through water quality monitoring and analysis;
- to improve the academic achievements of middle and high school students in Austin identified as "At-Risk"; and
- to increase the knowledge and awareness these students have of environmental issues and science-based activities resulting, in some cases, in the students pursuing technical careers.

The Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection and Development Review Department benefit directly when students alert the City about water quality problems they observe in the field. City staff can then quickly investigate and take any necessary action. The City and community have benefited as students develop reliable work habits and improve their academic performance as a part of their River Watch experience. Several of the youth program participants have been successfully employed as part of the Summer Youth Employment Program and others have held internships with the City. Independent evaluations of the program show that participants are less likely to leave school before graduation than some of their peers. Interviews with Austin Youth River Watch students also demonstrate they have an increased awareness of and interest in their environment. Although only a few have chosen science-based careers, we are confident that the training and support the Youth receive through this

program will help them be more responsible stewards of our environment.

Water quality monitoring data will be delivered to both departments.

MBE/WBE solicited: 1/0 MBE/WBE BID: 0/0

RFP NO. SA06300048 PRICE ANALYSIS a. Sole proposal received. Colorado River Water Foundation, Inc. has been the only bidder on this contract for over ten years b. Ten notices were sent including one MBE. There were no WBE firms listed. Two solicitations were issued. One proposal was received, with no response from the MBE. c. Based on the Environmental Board's resolution to expand the program to serve twice as many youth, the contract amount will double over the next three years.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION a. Sole proposal received. b. The Purchasing Office concurs with Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection and Development Review Department's recommended award. c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and Internet.